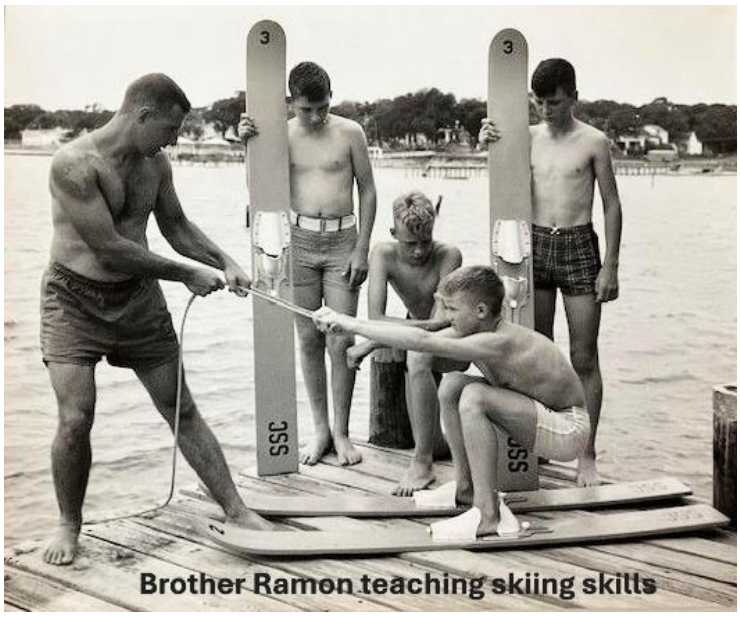
Retro #20: Summer Fun at Camp Stanislaus in the 1950s

In 1953, Brother Remigius David directed the 25th annual session of Camp Stanislaus. The camp's widespread popularity dates back almost 100 years. In 1928 Brother Peter Basso started Camp Stanislaus for fun and character formation, setting its high standards and making it the most sought-after camp in the South.

With its ideal location on the shores of Bay of St. Louis and its close proximity to the Jourdan River, St. Stanislaus used its facilities during the hot summer months to provide boys from 8 to 14 years old relief from boredom, offering well-supervised outlets for their energies.

In 1953, thirty Brothers of the Sacred Heart worked with 200 boys at Camp Stanislaus. Taking advantage of its location near the water, the camp offered fishing, swimming, diving, sailing, rowing, boating, and especially water skiing. Brother Ramon Daunis, a SSC graduate of 1947, specialized in teaching the fundamentals of skiing.

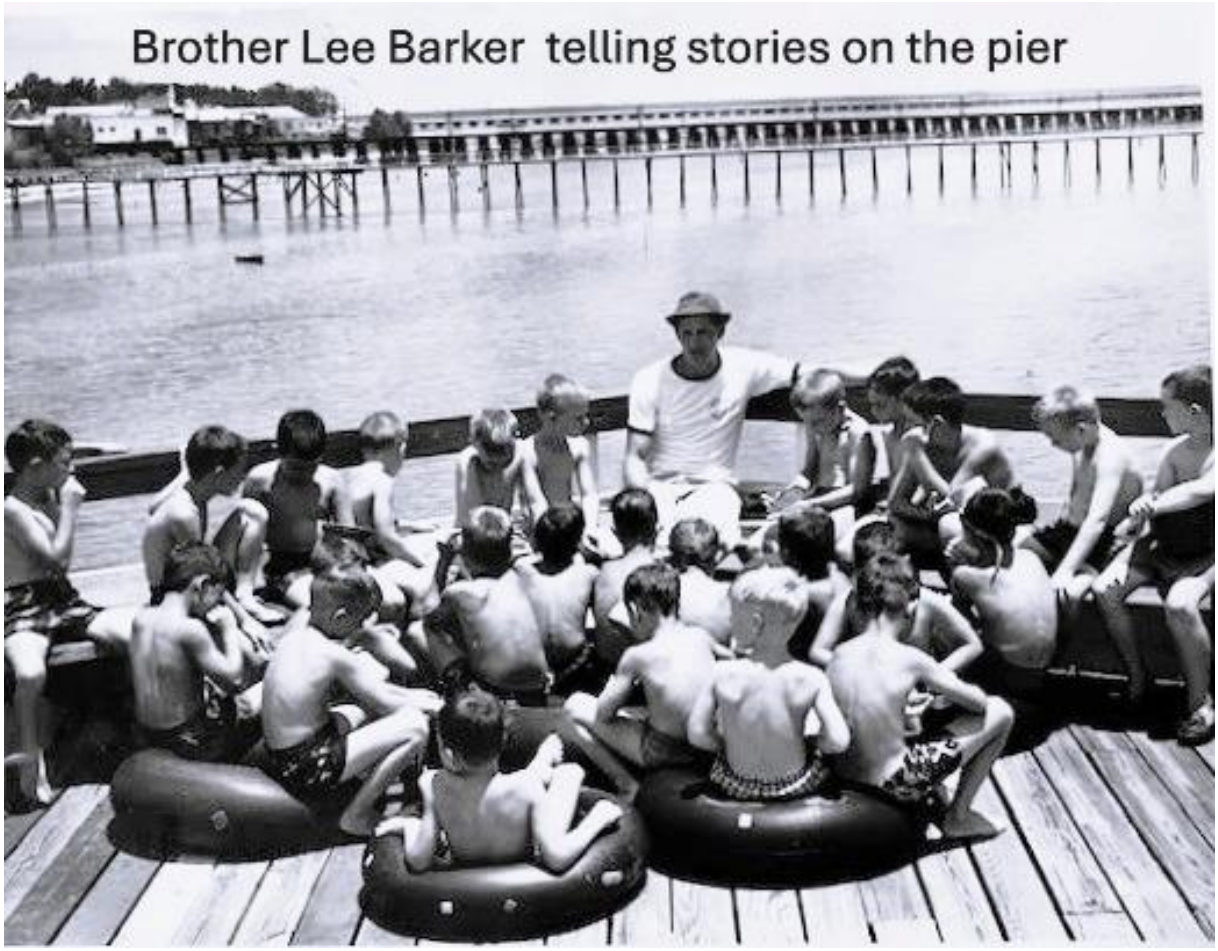
Brother Ramon skiing with two campers

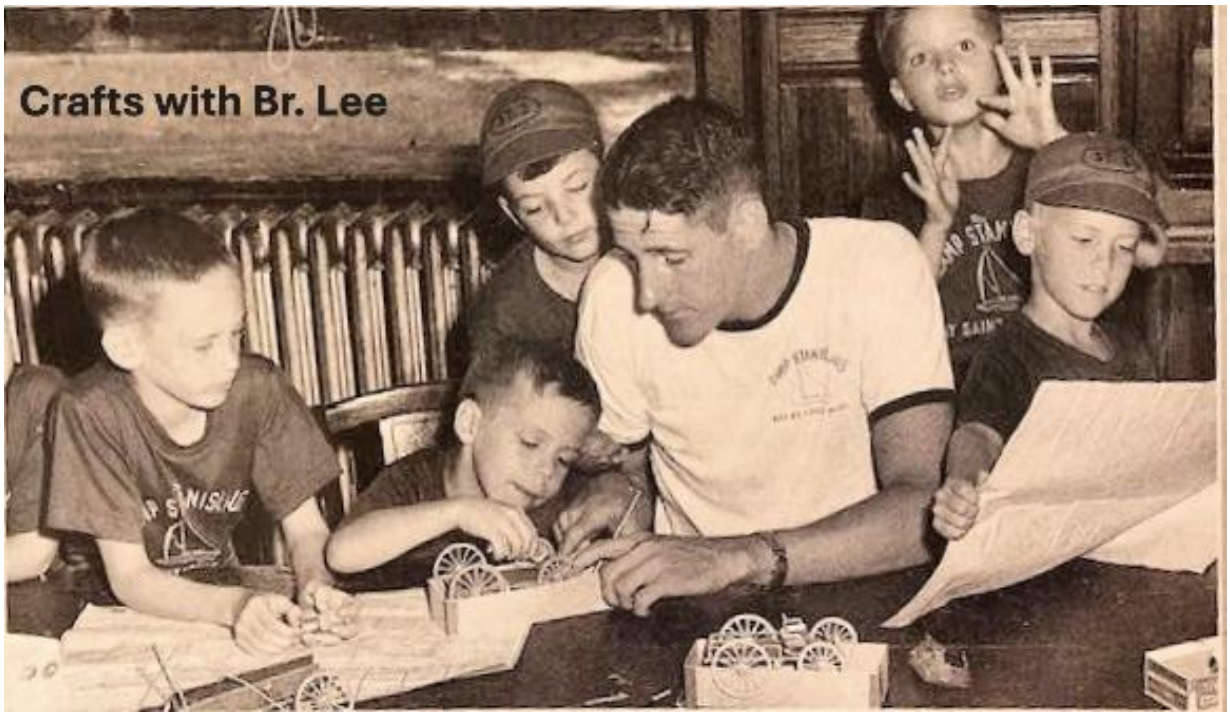


Brother Ramon teaching skiing skills

Other activities of the 1953 silver anniversary year of Camp Stanislaus included archery, horseback riding, rifles, boxing, tennis, and hiking as well as indoor activities such as table tennis, hobbies, and crafts.

Brother Lee Barker telling stories on the pier





Camp lasted five full weeks in the 1950s. It was later divided into two and three week sessions for those who preferred a shorter period, even though most young men wanted to full summer to perfect their skills and compete for the coveted awards. Every morning, the camp director gave the young boys a talk on character formation, emphasizing Christian virtues of fair play and respect for others.

At the end of camp, with the parents present, the camp director presided over an awards ceremony. Medals and ribbons were given for first, second and third place for all activities in each of seven groups. The awards program for 1943 shows that campers were divided into seven groups based on age and size. The most coveted awards at the end of camp were the Character Cup and the Best Camper trophies. They were presented to one camper in each group with gold medals given to three runners-up.

1943 Awards

C A M P S T A N I S L A U S

Final Bulletin — July 22, 1943

CHARACTER AWARDS

Group 1 — Trophy--Carl Weiss; Gold Medals--N.A. Maestri, Inge Johnstone and Charles Hartwell

Group 2 — Trophy--Richard Patout; Gold Medals--Fritz Jahncke, Gus Menard and Jack Lange

Group 3 — Trophy--Larry Hebert; Gold Medals--Mac Duhe, Jack Dyer and Bertram Babers

Group 4 — Trophy--Norman Carnovale; Gold Medals--Jimmy Dees, Dick Carver and George Landry

Group 5 — Trophy--Lester Alexander; Gold Medals--Wil. Baltazor, Jimmy Peltier and Louis Rodrigue

Group 6 — Trophy--Warren Virgets; Gold Medals--Douglas Wilson, Kenneth Gremillion and Oliver Dabezies

Group 7 — Trophy--Louis McHardy; Gold Medals--Rene Patout, Ray Lancaster and Oliver Adams

BEST CAMPER

Group 1 — Trophy--Lynn Richardson; Gold Medals--Dan McCreary, Ronald Deshotels and Gene Theriot